

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~procedure~~method for controlling the useful life of [[the]] gas turbines of a ~~plant by means of a production plant (10) comprising including a~~ series of production trains (15) and an auxiliary gas generator group (40), each production train of said series of trains (15) being in turn equipped with a series of gas turbine groups (20), each of which in turn includes a gas generator, ~~characterized in that it comprises the following phases~~the method comprising:

a) creating a succession (20', 20'', 20''' . . .) of gas generator groups of gas turbines (20) to be subjected to maintenance;

b) substituting ~~the~~a first gas generator group of gas turbines (20') of said succession (20', 20'', 20''' . . .) with said auxiliary gas generator group (40), to keep the production plant (10) ~~functioning almost continuously~~with less interruptions;

c) ~~controlling~~inspecting the first substituted gas generator group of gas turbines (20'), by subjecting it to ordinary maintenance operations;

d) substituting ~~the~~a second gas generator group of gas turbines (20'') of said succession (20', 20'', 20''' . . .) with said first ~~controlled~~verified gas generator group of

gas turbines ~~(20')~~;

e) ~~controlling~~ inspecting the second substituted gas generator group of gas turbines ~~(20'')~~, by subjecting it to ordinary maintenance operations; and

f) repeating said ~~phases~~ steps b), c) d) and e) for all the gas generator groups of gas turbines ~~(20)~~ of said succession ~~(20', 20'', 20''' . . .)~~ until all the gas generator groups of the gas turbines ~~(20)~~ of said production plant ~~(10)~~ have been subjected to ~~control and~~ maintenance.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~procedure~~ method for controlling the useful life of the gas turbines of a plant according to claim 1, comprising:

stopping, ~~characterized in that~~ during the substitution phases of the gas generator groups of gas turbines of said succession, only the group of gas turbines ~~(20)~~ to be substituted ~~is stopped~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~procedure~~ method for controlling the useful life of the gas turbines of a plant according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising:

stopping, during the substitution operations of said gas generator groups of gas turbines ~~(20)~~, the group to be substituted ~~is only stopped for the~~ a minimum time necessary for effecting the substitution.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~procedure~~ method for controlling the useful life

of the gas turbines of a plant according to ~~any of the previous claims, characterized in that claim 1, comprising:~~

substituting the second gas generator group of gas turbines at the end of ~~phase~~step c), with the first controlled gas generator group of gas turbines ~~(20')~~
~~substitutes the second gas generator group of gas turbines (20").~~

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~procedure~~method for controlling the useful life of the gas turbines of a plant according to ~~any of the previous claims, characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ said production plant ~~(10)~~ comprises four production trains ~~(15)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~procedure~~method for controlling the useful life of the gas turbines of a plant according to ~~any of the previous claims, characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ each production train of said series of trains ~~(15)~~ comprises two groups of gas turbines ~~(20)~~ for liquefying gas[[,]] by compression/~~cooling~~ and/or cooling.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~procedure~~method for controlling the useful life of the gas turbines of a plant according to ~~any of the previous claims, characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ each gas generator group comprises at least a number of gas generators equal to the number of gas turbines present in the group of gas turbines.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~procedure~~method for controlling the useful life

of the gas turbines of a plant according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said gas turbine (20) is a ~~heavy duty~~ gas turbine.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~procedure~~method for controlling the useful life of the gas turbines of a plant according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said gas generator comprises a power turbine (34) and a discharge outlet 36.